

dedications to the public service and fresh resolves by the people of this commonwealth. I take the oath of office of Governor humbly in this distinguished presence, deeply conscious of its great responsibilities, and seriously impressed with its true significance.

"Government has been the concern of mankind since the institution of society and the organization of the forces of civilization; and happily the masses of people are manifesting increased interest in the affairs of state and nation as they realize the many ways in which the government vitally touches their interests. This is as it should be. Public interest in government is absolutely essential to the maintenance of a Democracy.

Democracy is the finest and fittest symbol of human rights; and the preservation of this symbol is a vital and living force in government is dependent upon public participation in the intimate details of the administration of governmental affairs and upon the proper public thought and conception of governmental activity and service.

"Government has been a developing science. It has expanded with our civilization. It has entered, and now occupies, fields that hitherto were reserved solely for benevolent or altruistic organizations. We have come to realize that government ought to function in behalf of all the people; that it should do more than merely administer the laws—as essential and important as that phase of service may be; that in order to meet the high expectations of the people, government should do more than minister to the purely material needs of the masses; that it should interpret the noble purpose of our citizenship and translate into pulsating statutes the high resolves of a free people.

With this conception, the government of North Carolina has entered into the most intimate affairs of her citizens and shares with them the responsibility for the education of their children; the preservation and safe-guarding of health and life; the care, nurture, and treatment of the unfortunate, deficient, or incapacitated; the training and equipping for life's duties of those laboring under some special handicap; and the restoration and restraint of wayward boys and the reclamation of girls gone astray. Surely these activities are worthy of the advancing thought in government, and tend to establish our State in the front line trenches of progressive action.

"A Great Southern Statesman, visualizing the duties of citizenship, and speaking with the intuition of a seer, declared: 'Who saves his country saves all things, and all things saved shall bless him; who lets his country die lets all things die, and all things dying curse him'.

Responsibilities to the State

"I submit to you and through you to the people of North Carolina, today this challenging thought; and I enlist your active assistance and patriotic endeavor in behalf of the dominant purposes of this administration—which shall be to arouse a deep and abiding interest in the affairs of State on the part of all people, and unremitting effort to make the forces of government serve the whole people of the State in their varied capacities, ministering to their material, physical, intellectual and moral well-being. The conception I submit seeks to enlist the element of purest patriotism that will content